Scottish Import Heads City Music Groups

HOBAN POSSESSES WIDE EXPERIENCE

By BERT BINNY

"THE FIRST THING we should derive from music is pleasure. The first duty of a musician is to entertain even though on a high level and this both as to performance and as to the material performed."

This is the very solid viewpoint of Stanley Hoban, new musical director of both the Victoria Choral Society and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

And Mr. Hoban should know whereof he speaks. He has been a successful singer all his life as well as a teacher and conductor of international note.

Mr. Hoban was born at Dunoon on the Firth of Clyde. Says Hoban, "Dunoon is to Glasgow what Brighton is to London, England."

Stanley Hoban came to Canada in 1925 and lived in Winnipeg where he met and married Gladys Watson. Miss Watson was and still is a pianist whose first love is accompaniment. For the past 33 years they have formed a superb team both on the concert stage and in the studio.

The rich baritone voice of Stanley Hoban was fully utilized on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation stations. At one time he gave 120 straight recitals employing no fewer than 540 different songs. Quite a literature!

From 1937 to 1939 the Hobans were back in England where Mr. Hoban performed on the BBC, gave many provincial concerts and appeared on London's West End stage in "The Vagabond King" and "On Your Toes." The first featured Bebe Daniels and the cast of the second included the well-known dancer, Vera Zorina.

Back in Winnipeg from 1939 to 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Hoban had a music studio in the Musical Arts Building while Mr. Hoban did all the baritone solo work with the Winnipeg Philarmonic. Here he sang the "Messiah," "The Canterbury Pilgrims," "Hiawatha" and many other great works.

In 1944 to 1946 the Hobans were in Toronto where Mr. Hoban was on the staff of the Toronto Conservatory of Music. However, in 1946, at the invitation of the Christian Science Church, they moved to Seattle where they remained until 1957.

Up until 1937 Mr. Hoban had conducted three choirs in Winnipeg, the Central Congregational, the Home Street United and the First Presbyterian. He also sang at the big Christian Science Churches in Winnipeg, London, Toronto and the Mother Church in Boston.

In Seattle Mr. Hoban conducted the famous Rotary Choir over a period of eight years. This was one of the finest choirs in the country and it performed under Mr. Hoban at the Rotary International Convention in Seattle.

STANLEY HOBAN

Stanley Hoban, both as a teacher of voice and a man of wide experience, has advice to offer to upcoming singers.

"We, as singers," he says, "have a tendency to forego gradualy development which, by and large, instrumentalists do not do."

Obviously the temptation to do this is very great. The voice is there, part of the human structure, and, because of this, training it does not seem to be as formidable a task. But it is.

"Very, very often," says Mr. Hoban, "we hear fine voices but the owners have not done enough to establish a basic technique."

Mr. Hoban strongly recommends that every singer should learn and practise — even if he or she never performs them in public — the early Italian songs, the aria antiqua of the 17th and 18th centuries. There is no better way, he feels, of developing purity of tone and a strong sense of line.

Mr. Hoban looks forward happily to this work with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and the Choral Society. The former are already launched into rehearsal of Johann Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" for spring production.

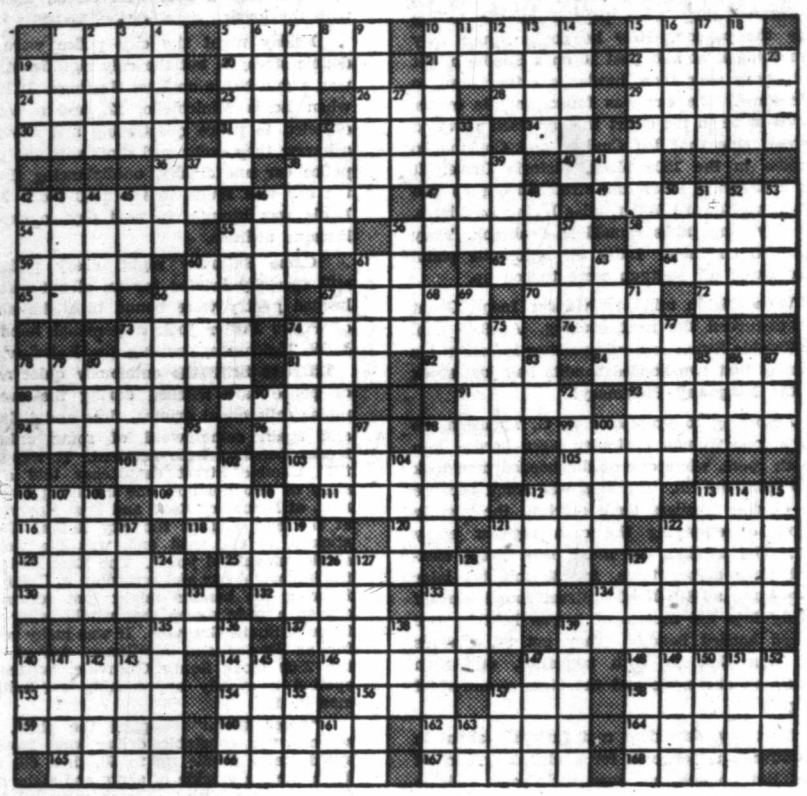
With the Choral Society, the new director is anxious to develop shorter works of the great composers as well as the longer oratorios.

"There is a wealth of material in the literature of folk songs," he adds, and he admires many spirituals also.

"Victoria," says Mr. Hoban, "is rich in fine voices!"

This, of course, is a wonderful thing for any city. But it is the more wonderful when all the best avenues of development are opened up by the presence in our midst of an artist such as Stanley Hoban.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

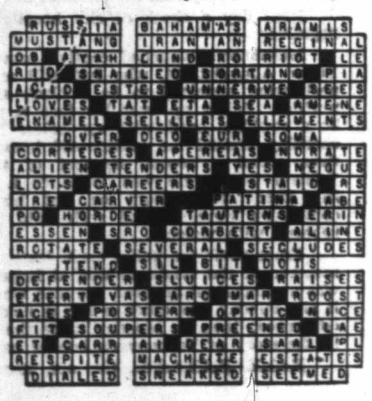


ACROSS

1 Chinese secret society
5 Kind act
10 Make sore by rubbing
15 To cut, after snick
19 Distinctive quality
20 Herb with aromatic seeds
21 Island in Baltic Sea
22 — firma
24 Italian violin maker
25 As it stands (mus.)
26 Marsh
28 Stuff
29 Grain fungus
30 Part of Great Britain
31 Symbol for tellurium
32 System of religion worship (pl.)
34 Syllable of scale
35 Unfastened
36 It is (contr.)
38 Like a mask
40 Unit of electrical reluctance
42 Figure of speech
46 Painful
47 Russian river
49 Vegetable
54 Rugged crest of mountain range
55 To sharpen
56 Place of combat (pl.)
58 Nerve network
59 Designed U.S. flag
60 Hold aloof in sullen manner
61 Academic degree
62 Nautical mile
64 Girl's nickname
65 Girl's name
66 Arrived
67 Rubbish
70 Civil wrong
72 Bright saying
73 A king of Israel
74 Outdoor game
76 Biblical weed
78 Upstart
81 Lubricating liquid
82 Tagalong for iwer
84 Domestic (Scot.)
88 Mountain nymph
89 Man's nickname
91 Secular
93 Libyan seaport
94 Separate
96 Irish Gaelic
98 Thing in law
99 Entombed
101 Endure
103 To disgrace
105 Zestful
106 Man's name
109 Predatory incursion
111 Weird
112 Incite
113 Armed conflict
116 Seaport of Brazil
118 Single thing
120 While
121 Musical composition
122 Animal inclosure
123 Factor
125 Vibration
128 Son of Seth
129 Train that makes all stops
130 — on Don, Russian city
132 A knot in wood
133 River of England
134 Part of ornithology that treats of birds' eggs
135 Pinpoint
137 City of Germany
139 Recede
140 Mountains of South America
144 Sacred Hindu word
146 A willow
147 Right line (ab.)
149 Puts in a place for storage
153 Tributary to another river
154 Roman bronze
156 Hindu cymbals
157 To fasten
158 Indian tent
159 Close by (poet.)
160 Succinct
162 Of ancient Troy
164 Lift, spirits of
165 English composer
166 Pigpens
167 Cease (naut.)
168 College yells

DOWN

1 Colombian Indian
2 Race track
3 Short letter
4 Cartilage
5 Cases without food
6 Poker stake
7 By way of
8 Bone
9 Reject
10 Outline of a figure
11 Pronoun
12 Serpent
13 Dread
14 Church official
15 Startike
16 Roman emperor
17 Therefore (L.)
18 God of love
19 Carpenter's tool
23 Goddess of infatuation
27 Antlered animal
32 Worry
33 Male forebear
37 Pacific island screw pine
38 Member of a religious order
39 Moist
41 Teutonic deity
42 Hindu woman's garment
43 Golf club
44 Tableland
45 Pronoun
46 Part of foot
48 A sand launce
50 Lair
51 Article
52 Fodder storage pit
53 To stop
55 Hoax
56 Calculating instrument
57 Product of combustion
60 Bushmen
61 Seed coating
63 Malay pewter coin
66 Kind of cheese
67 City of Europe
68 Engage in winter sport
69 A Greek of Hellenic period
71 Asperse
73 Be of value
74 Venomous snake
75 To brown, as bread
77 Abrasive material
78 Seed container
79 Island in Indian Ocean
80 Reverend (abbr.)
83 United States soldier
85 Sea eagle
86 Chemical suffix
87 Youth
90 Denoting unfit ship in Lloyd's register
92 A tendril (bot.)
95 Brother of Jacob
97 French for summer
98 Danish-American journa list and philanthropist
100 Henpecks
102 To color lightly
104 Sandarac tree
106 Armadillo
107 Kind of palm
108 God of War
110 Dagger
112 On
113 City of Texas
114 King of Amelekites
115 Depend
117 Emmet
119 To care for
121 River of Asia
122 Mountain pass
124 Shaven crown worn by monks
126 Island in Malay Archipelago
127 Son of Agamemnon
128 At any time
129 Marine crustacean
131 Roman number
133 Feminine name
134 River of Asia
136 Vessels
138 New Mexico Indian
139 Choose
140 Arab sleeveless outer garment
141 Novel by Zola
142 One who colors cloth
143 Of the dawn
145 Encounter
147 Narrow inlets
149 A tissue
150 Brilliant colored fish
151 Dampens
152 Observe
155 Fortunate in India
157 — Juana
161 A direction
163 55 (Rom. num.) numeral)

SOLUTION NEXT SUNDAY

Last Sunday's Solution